**Chapter Two: Writing & Project Assignments**

**Writing Assignments**

1. Do the reactions to the recent expansion in federal power around the issues of health care, marriage, and taxation support the theory of an individualistic or traditionalistic political culture?

CT, COMM

1. Which of the various models of federalism is most effective and why?

CT, COMM

**Projects**

1. Break your students into groups and ask them to research a policy areas in which unfunded mandates exist. You may have them choose from this list or other policy areas that you identify:

The Clean Air Act The American Disabilities Act of 1990

Medicaid No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Once the students have selected a policy they should answer the following questions.

* What problem was this policy created to address?
* Who benefits from this policy and how do they benefit?
* What are the costs of this policy?
* What do advocates and critics of this policy say?

Finally in a presentation, the students should share their answers with their classmates and argue for or against unfunded mandates based on their findings. Do unfunded mandates serve a larger social good? Or are they simply an unfair burden on individual tax payers?

CT, COMM, SR, PR

1. Organize your students into groups. Assign each group a different state and the task to review the constitution for that state. After reading both the Texas constitution and the constitution of the state they have been assigned, ask students to draft a new amendment to the Texas constitution. As students present their amendments, keep a tally of the common changes on the board.

CT, COMM